



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release

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Department Receives Additional RCRA Authorization

SACRAMENTO---State and federal officials announced today that the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to augment its program under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which regulates the management of hazardous wastes.

Under California's augmented RCRA authorization, which becomes effective today (September 26, 2001), DTSC will now have additional regulatory authority over areas formerly governed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency including:

- C organic air emissions standards for process vents and equipment leaks;
- C regulations for the burning of hazardous waste in boilers and industrial furnaces;
- C management of various land disposal restrictions for certain types of hazardous waste material;
- C the state's corrective action management process for hazardous waste; and,
- C changes relating to the toxicity characteristic rule.

In all, fourteen changes are listed in the Federal Register dated September 26, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 187) relating to the state's RCRA authorization.

"We are pleased that California's augmented RCRA authorization will help streamline hazardous waste regulations while protecting the environment," said DTSC Director Ed Lowry. "These new standards will lessen bureaucracy for local governments, industry and other affected communities as well."

In July 1992, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency authorized DTSC to implement the federal hazardous waste program, thus eliminating duplication between the two programs. California's initial RCRA authorization included the base program and amendments adopted under the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, and other hazardous waste requirements. However, the 1992 authorization did not include certain standards relating specifically to air emissions, boilers and industrial furnaces, corrective action and, the toxicity characteristic rule regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting its reduction.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."